

26 June 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT: Congressional Fellowship Program

1. Earlier this month, at the request of the Civil Service Commission, I served on a panel interviewing federal candidates for the Congressional Fellowship Program. Two years ago, again at the request of the CSC, I participated on a similar panel. On both occasions, the other two panel representatives--one from the Commission and the other from the American Political Science Association, which runs the Fellowship program--commented unfavorably on the quality of the candidate put forward by the Agency. In 1971, the CIA sent forward three names and of these, two were rejected. This year, the Agency nominated only one candidate and he, too, was judged unsuitable. In these instances, those responsible for the program felt that the Agency nominees did not meet the criteria laid down for participation.

2. My own experience as a Congressional Fellow and as an interviewer led me to conclude that the program is not suitable for large numbers of Agency employees. Candidates who are likely to be accepted and to derive maximum benefit are those with strong academic backgrounds in political science, history or international affairs; those with interest in politics; and those who do not hold highly specialized or technical jobs. Although there certainly would be exceptions, I would think nominees from such offices as OER, OSR, OCI, ONE, OTR and [REDACTED] would be particularly well suited to participate. They would also gain the most from the two-three month seminar on foreign affairs which is now a part of the Fellowship program.

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3. I feel the Congressional Fellowship program is an exceptionally good one and that both the Agency and the individual selected to participate benefit enormously. The individual is given the opportunity to develop the flexibility and versatility which enable him to serve the Agency in a variety of capacities. One is also exposed to problems of national concern from the vantage point of service within another branch of the government whose needs and methods are different from those of the Agency. Finally, one gains a deeper insight into the relationship between the legislative and the executive branches. The greatest value for the Agency, I think, would be to have an able and articulate representative on the Hill at a time of growing Congressional interest in the CIA. Without exposing Agency secrets, the CIA representative would serve in an informal educative capacity not only for congressmen and their staffs but also for Fellows in the program who represent an elite group of civil servants, journalists and academicians.

4. In light of these benefits, I am concerned over the failure of Agency candidates to gain admittance to the program. I would hope that all of those concerned with the nominating and selecting process would take a fresh look at the methods and rationale for choosing Agency candidates and then institute procedures designed to ensure that the best qualified candidates are put forward.

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